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SUBJECT: TRIAL COMMENCES FOR FIVE MEN ACCUSED OF PLOTTING
TO COMMIT ACTS OF TERROR

¶1. (U) The trial of five Sydney men accused of conspiring to commit a terrorist act or acts began November 11 in Parramatta, a New South Wales suburb of Sydney. The men, Khaled Cheikho, 35, Moustafa Cheikho, 31, Mohamed Ali Elomar, 43, Abdul Rakib Hasan, 39 and Mohammed Omar Jamal, 24 were found to have a cache of literature and video describing beheadings and touting Jihad as a fast route to heaven. According to Crown prosecuters the men attempted to obtain bomb-making materials and had procured a number of books on the process. The trial will hinge on prosecution efforts to describe "mileston events" such as travel by Elomar to Pakistan for paramilitary training and the subscription to mobile phones using false names and identifying information.

¶2. (U) The trial is expected to last nine months to a year. The jury pool that resulted in a 15 person panel began with five thousand potential jurors. The Attorney General's Department (AGD) has made no public statement on the process, but with regard to terror trials has told post that success hinges on greater cooperation between investigators and prosecutors. Post will continue to monitor the proceedings.

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